

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 NIC-01 /134 W

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R 081400 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5984

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 364

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MI, KN

SUBJ: VISIT OF DELEGATION FROM DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES REPUBLIC
OF KOREA

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. PRESS REPORTS 4- MAN DELEGATION FROM DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES
REPUBLIC OF KOREA ARRIVED BLANTYRE MARCH 5 HEADED BY VICE
MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS JON MYONG SU. IN AIRPORT STATEMENT
VICE MINISTER STATED HE BROUGHT MESSAGE OF WARM GREETINGS
TO LIFE PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE OF MALAWI FROM PRESIDENT AND
PEOPLE OF DRK. DURING 4- DAY VISIT DELEGATION WISHED TO
SEE SUCCESS MALAWI MAKING UNDER LEADERSHIP OF NGWAZI. " WE
WANT TO SEE WITH OUR OWN EYES HOW MALAWI IS BUILDING THE
COUNTRY AND HER SOCIETY." VICE MINISTER SAID VISIT WOULD MAKE
GREAT CONTRIBUTION TOWARD DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING
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RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

2. MINEXTAFF IS PROVING RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS VISIT. APPARENTLY DELEGATION MADE REPEATED REQUESTS FOR PERMISSION TO VISIT MALAWI. PRESIDENT BANDA FINALLY AGREED COULD COME BUT ACCORDING TO EXTAFF " WITHOUT COMMITMENT." EXTAFF POINTS OUT MALAWI HAS RELATIONS WITH ROK AND HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED U. S. POSITION ON KOREAN QUESTION AT UN. DELEGATION DEPARTING BY CHARTERED PLANE FOR LUSAKA MARCH 8. LENGTH OF STAY ATTRIBUTED TO LACK OF SEATS ON FLIGHT TO LUSAKA.

3. COMMENT: UNTIL NOW GOM HAS FOLLOWED POLICY OF PROHIBITING ENTRANCE OF ANY KNOWN COMMUNIST INCLUDING EMPLOYEES OF UN AGENCIES. REGARDLESS OF EXACT CIRCUMSTANCES GOVERNING DELEGATION' S ARRIVAL, ADMISSION OF NORTH KOREANS IS NOTABLE DEPARTURE FROM PAST PRACTICE. PROBABLY IT IS MORE A REFLECTION OF BROAD CHANGES IN WORLD ENVIRONMENT, ESPECIALLY U. S. RAPPROCHEMENT WITH MOSCOW AND PEKING, THAN OF PERCEIVED NEED TO REDIFINE MALAWI' S OWN INTERESTS. PRESIDENT BANDA, WHO WOULD PERSONALLY DECIDE STEP OF THIS NATURE, MAY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT AS CONSPICUOUS AN ANTI- COMMUNIST POSTURE AS IN PAST NO LONGER PRUDENT AND THAT MALAWI SHOULD MOVE INTO CLOSER ALIGNMENT WITH POSITIONS OF OTHER MODERATE AFRICAN STATES. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE SUDDEN SHARP CHANGE FROM PRO-WESTERN FOREIGN POLICIES, BUT MALAWI MAY IN FUTURE PROVE RELUCTANT TO TAKE " ODD MAN OUT" STANCE ON ISSUES INVOLVING EAST/ WEST RELATIONS AND RADICAL AFRICAN/ ARAB STATES. IT MAY ALSO BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO ADDITIONAL OVERTURES FROM COMMUNIST STATES. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT BANDA' S STRONG INNATE SUSPICIONS OF UNDERLYING COMMUNIST MOTIVES WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE BREAK ON SIGNIFICANT INVOLVEMENT WITH COMMUNISTS. BURDETT

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TAGS: PFOR, KN, MI
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CAPE TOWN
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